

real and grave damage. My experience with the libel suit convinced me that nine-tenths of the people of leadership and influence, big and little, in New York are utterly against me."

October 9,
1915.

To John St. Loe Sirachey, London: "Don't get it into your head that there is the slightest possibility of my re- turning to public life. Even the men who on the whole agree with me in my position, would be almost a unit against me if I again was a candidate for public office. It is against our traditions as a nation; and, while I myself think these traditions are foolish, yet they exist, and that is all there is to it. I intend to continue writing and now and then speaking until this war is through; but after that I believe that I shall probably stop both speaking and writing, for I do not think I can get any audience or do good to the country."

December 7,
1915.

To Senator Lodge: "As you know, I feel that the course I have followed about Hyphenated-Americanism, and especially the German-American vote, is such as absolutely to preclude the possibility of nominating me as a candi- date, even though there had been such a possibility before, which in my judgment was not the case. I have followed the course I have followed in the last year, because I thought someone ought to say the kind of things I have said, and that without regard to his own future, and I was the man peculiarly blocked out for the task."

January 29,
1916.

To Wayne MacVeagh: "I am a strong believer
iji being
practical and working with your fellows, which
is another
way of saying of working with the
organization. But now
and then the time comes when it is quite
impossible to com-
promise and do your duty to the nation, and
now and then
the time comes when a man must hoist the
black flag and
sink or swim, without regard to what his
fellows think, for
the cause in which he with all his heart
believes. In my